



# What's Happening in Houston's Theater District

## April 2009

### LES MISÉRABLES

March 24 – April 5 (Times vary)

Theatre Under The Stars

Adapted from the classic Victor Hugo novel, the musical theatre phenomenon Les Misérables has a score by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg (Miss Saigon), with lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer. One of the world's best-loved musicals, it is the longest running musical in London's West End, and arguably the longest continuously-running musical in the world. This immensely popular entertainment has been seen by over 53 million people worldwide in 38 countries and been performed in 21 languages. There are over 35 recordings of the score, again in several languages. Following the life of the fugitive Jean Valjean, his foster daughter Cosette, and his relentless pursuer Javert against a backdrop of the French Revolution, Les Misérables reminds us that we are each part of the same human family—that whatever our outward differences may be, our longings for individual liberty and peace are the same.

Hobby Center's Sarofim Hall

Tickets: \$32 - \$95.50

(713) 558-8887 / tuts.com

### A LITTLE DAY MUSIC

April 1 (Noon)

Da Camera of Houston

*A Little Day Music* concerts fulfill an important aspect of Da Camera's mission to develop the audience for chamber music and jazz by making it accessible to everyone and part of everyday life. Downtown workers, schools, seniors and day care centers are among the many who enjoy Da Camera's free lunchtime concerts on the first Wednesday of each month, October through May, at noon in the lobby of the Wortham Theater Center. Bring your lunch and enjoy the wide variety of artists and ensembles presented this season.

Wortham Center's Grand Foyer

Tickets: Free

(713) 524-5050 / dacamera.com

### CHICK COREA AND JOHN MCLAUGHLIN 5 PIECE BAND

April 1 (8:00 pm)

Verizon Wireless Theater

Tickets: \$49 - \$89

(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com

### JOHN WILLIAMS AND RACHMANINOFF

April 2-5 (Times vary)

Houston Symphony

You can hear John Williams' life-long love of the horn in his concerto, which was written as he was completing the music to the third Harry Potter film. Imagine your own picture to the concerto's movements – Angelus, The Battle of the Trees, Pastorale, The Hunt and Nocturne

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$27 - \$107

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

### SIMÓN BOLIVAR YOUTH ORCHESTRA

April 3 (8:00 pm)

Houston Symphony

The Houston Symphony hosts conductor Gustavo Dudamel and the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra in a program including Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4, Ravel's Daphnis and Chloe Suite No. 2 and Latin encores.

60 Minutes calls charismatic conductor Gustavo Dudamel "the hottest thing to hit classical music since Leonard Bernstein." Indeed, when he conducted the New York Philharmonic the orchestra lent him Leonard Bernstein's baton. Born just 27 years ago, Dudamel will become the music director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic next year.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$31.75 - \$121.75

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

## DAFNIS PRIETO QUINTET

**April 3** (8:00 pm)

### Da Camera of Houston

The New York Times has compared the arrival of Dafnis Prieto in the U.S. to the landing of an asteroid. His groundbreaking drumming techniques have had a powerful impact on both the Latin and jazz music scenes, locally and internationally.

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$26 - \$45

(713) 524-5050 / dacamera.com

## CRAIG FERGUSON: STAND UP FOR HOUSTON'S CHILDREN

**April 3** (9:00 pm)

Verizon Wireless Theater

Tickets: \$55 - \$100

(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com

## COMEDY CENTRAL LIVE: STEPHEN LYNCH 3 BALLOONS TOUR

**April 4** (8:00 pm)

Verizon Wireless Theater

Tickets: \$29.50

(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com

## CROSSROADS OF AMERICA

**April 7** (8:00 pm)

### Project Divisi

Crisscrossing the country, the railroads united every corner of America's industry and culture. VOX: The Rob Seible Singers joins forces with Project DIVISI to deliver a night of homegrown entertainment you won't soon find anywhere else. Slavery, Civil War, the Industrial Revolution! Join soloist Ron Raines as these two ensembles lead you through a musical history of our country!

Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall

Tickets: \$21.25 - \$38.25

(713) 315-2525 / projectdivisi.org

## THE WIZARD OF OZ

**April 7-19** (Times vary)

### Broadway Across America

There truly is no place like home as the wonderful WIZARD OF OZ twists its way to a city near you! The entire family will be captivated as they travel down the Yellow Brick Road and beyond with Dorothy, Toto and their friends in this lavish production featuring breathtaking special effects, dazzling choreography and classic songs.

A spectacular celebration of the iconic 1939 MGM film starring Judy Garland, THE WIZARD OF OZ will blow you away from the moment the tornado touches down and transports you to a dazzling art deco Oz, complete with munchkins and flying monkeys. Don't miss this chance to travel Over the Rainbow and experience THE WIZARD OF OZ on stage

Hobby Center's Sarofim Hall

Tickets: \$21 - \$70

(713) 629-3700 / ticketmaster.com

## THE TEN TENORS

**April 9** (8:00 pm)

### Society for the Performing Arts

Australia's hottest tenor export makes its Houston debut with an eclectic program drawing from the classical tenor repertoire, Neapolitan ballads and rock classics! Formed in 1995 while studying at university for careers in opera, The Ten Tenors leapt to international attention in 2002 as the surprise guest artists at the Eurovision Grand Prix de la Chanson held in Kiel, Germany. The Ten Tenors are performing to sold-out engagements across the country.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$22 - \$67

(713) 227-4SPA / spahouston.org

## DANCE SALAD FESTIVAL

**April 9-11** (7:30 pm each day)

### Houston International Dance Coalition

The much anticipated annual Dance Salad Festival returns in April 2009! Each curated performance presents a roster of outstanding dancers and choreography from around the world. Among those coming to Houston exclusively for Dance Salad Festival are The English National Ballet, London, England; The Royal Danish Ballet, Copenhagen, Denmark; Mats Ek and Ana Laguna, Stockholm, Sweden; Gothenburg Opera Ballet, Sweden; SemperOper Ballet, Dresden, Germany; Staatstheater Ballet Wiesbaden, Germany. Choreographers represented in the performance program include: Mats Ek, William Forsythe, David Dawson, Hans van Manen, Jorma Elo, Stephan Thoss and Kenneth Kvarnstrom.

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$19 - \$47

(877) 772-5425 / dancesalad.org

## CHILDREN OF EDEN

**April 10-18** (Times vary)

### Masquerade Theatre

Children of Eden is a heartfelt and frank look at the age-old conflict between parent and child set against the backdrop of two of humanity's most treasured stories: the creation of the Garden of Eden and the Flood. Through Adam, Eve, Noah and "the Father," the blind sins of the parent and the reckless choices of the child are highlighted in rich, vivid detail. Stephen Schwartz, the creator of Wicked and Godspell, presents a deeply moving portrayal of tales that resonate in all of us, and through a energetic score filled with gospel, rock, folk and powerful choral moments, he paints a picture of both sorrow and hope as the final message is delivered: "the hardest part of love is letting go." Children of Eden is a joyous celebration of life and is an inspiration to all who experience the wonderful diversity and love of family.

Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall

Tickets: \$30 - \$50

(713) 315-2525 / masqueradetheatre.com

## MAURITIUS

**April 10 – May 3** (Times vary)

### Alley Theatre

Theresa Rebeck (author of The Scene and Bad Dates) returns with Mauritius, a "tightly woven and ever-surprising sinister comedy" (Playbill.com) "filled with stunning scenes of high humor and drama" (Variety). The title, Mauritius, refers to an island off the coast of Africa from which a now highly collectible stamp, described as "the crown jewel of philately," was issued in the age of Victoria. Like the Maltese Falcon, the Mauritius stamp is the fraught object of desire for an assortment of shady characters with different and mysterious backgrounds and motives, who move through the twists of the plot's crosses and double-crosses.

*Recommended for mature audiences.*

Hubbard Stage

Tickets: \$21 - \$67

(713) 220-5700 / alleytheatre.org

## MORRISSEY

**April 11** (8:00 pm)

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$37.50 - \$47.50

(713) 629-3700 / ticketmaster.com

## MONUMENTAL

**April 17** (8:00 pm)

### Society for the Performing Arts

One of Australia's leading dancers/choreographers, Ros Warby makes her Houston debut with her latest award-winning solo dance work. Profoundly moving and richly layered, Monumental embodies two of ballet's most iconic figures: the swan and the soldier. Warby highlights the parallels between the two icon's strength, innocence, naivety and fear. "Warby is fearless and uncompromising, venturing into performance strategies that take her and us out of safe and familiar territory" (The Age).

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$22 - \$42

(713) 227-4SPA / spahouston.org

## LEILA JOSEFOWICZ PLUS BRAHMS' FIRST

**April 17-19** (8:00 pm)

### Houston Symphony

Composer John Adams says, "The violin commands incredible lyric intensity and has a fantastic capacity to deliver a white-hot message." The second movement of his concerto was inspired by the Pachelbel Canon.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$27 - \$107

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

## RIGOLETTO

**April 17 – May 2** (Times vary)

### Houston Grand Opera

A bitter court jester pits himself against his master in a hopeless effort to protect his daughter's virtue. Three shining young artists—Studio alums Scott Hendricks and Albina Shagimuratova, along with Eric Cutler—make their role debuts as the hunchback Rigoletto, his adored daughter Gilda and the lecherous, remorseless Duke of Mantua. Patrick Summers conducts Verdi's distinguished tragedy.

Wortham Center's Brown Theater

Tickets: \$20 - \$205

(713) 228-6737 / houstongrandopera.org

## A TRIBUTE TO BISMILLAH KHAN

**April 19** (6:00 pm)

### Indo-American Association

Shehnai nawaz Ustad Bismillah Khan Sahib, hailing from Benares, was one of the few distinguished musicians of India to be decorated with the highest civilian honor of Bharat Ratna. His nephew, Ustad Ali Ahmed Hussain Khan, another brilliant Shehnai maestro from Benares, pays a musical tribute to the legendary Bismillah Khan. Also joining in the tribute are shehnai nawaz Hassan Haider and Ahmed Abbas, and Subhen Chatterjee on tabla.

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: TBA

(281) 648-0422 / iaahouston.com

## BILL BRYSON

**April 20** (7:30 pm)

### Inprint

BILL BRYSON is the best-selling author of a number of wildly diverse nonfiction works, including *The Lost Continent*, a hilarious travel book detailing a trip in his mother's Chevy around small-town America; *The Mother Tongue*, an encyclopedic journey through the English language from Neanderthal man to the present; and *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, his wryly observant journey through the universe, which *The New York Times* calls "stylish and stunningly accurate ... destined to become a modern classic of science writing." Bryson has also written a memoir of growing up in Des Moines, Iowa, in the 50s and 60s, *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*, which Tom Brokaw calls "a national treasure." His other works include *A Walk in the Woods*, *I'm a Stranger Here Myself*, *In a Sunburned Country*, and his latest work, *Shakespeare: The World as Stage*, a lively biography of the Bard. Bryson currently lives in England, where he was named an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 2006 for his contributions to literature.

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$5

(713) 521-2026 / inprinthouston.org

## LEADING LADIES OF THE SILVER SCREEN

**April 24-26** (Times vary)

### Houston Symphony

The Houston Symphony and special guest vocalists will bring you face to face with five leading ladies of classic film in their most iconic roles. Meet Audrey Hepburn in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, Ingrid Bergman in *Casablanca*, Elizabeth Taylor in *Cleopatra*, Vivien Leigh in *Gone With the Wind* and Judy Garland in *The Wizard of Oz*. Hear "Moon River", "As Time Goes By", "I Got Rhythm" and the Overture to *My Fair Lady*.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$29 - \$110

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

## NO FEAR ENERGY MUSIC TOUR FEATURING LAMB OF GOD

**April 24** (7:00 pm)

### Verizon Wireless Theater

Tickets: \$32 - \$35

(713) 230-1600 / livenation.com

## ROCK 'N' ROLL

**April 24 – May 24** (Times vary)

### Alley Theatre

Four-time Tony Award winner Tom Stoppard (*Hapgood*, *Invention of Love*) returns to the Alley with *Rock 'n' Roll*, winner of London Critics' Circle Theatre Award for Best New Play. It's August 1968, and Russian tanks are rolling into Prague... Jan, the Czech student, lives for rock music, Max, the English professor, lives for Communism, and Esme, the flower child, is high. By 1990, the tanks are rolling out, the Stones are rolling in and idealism has hit the wall. Stoppard's sweeping and passionate play spans two countries, three generations and 22 turbulent years, at the end of which, love remains — and so does rock 'n' roll. "Tom Stoppard's astounding new work is funny, wise and triumphant," says *New York Magazine*.

*Recommended for mature audiences.*

Neuhaus Stage

Tickets: \$21 - \$55

(713) 220-5700 / alleytheatre.org

## BEN STEVENSON ACADEMY SPRING SHOWCASE

**April 24-25** (Times vary)

### Houston Ballet

Students today, stars tomorrow. In two stellar performances, the gifted young artists of Houston Ballet's professional training program showcase their brilliance. This is your chance to see the up and coming dancers perform works created especially for them.

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$20 - \$42

(713) 227-ARTS / houstonballet.org

## ALADDIN AND THE ARABIAN NIGHTS

**April 25** (10:00 am & 11:30 am)

### Houston Symphony

Take a magic carpet ride with Aladdin and experience a whole new world of music. Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade will tell you stories from The Arabian Nights such as Sinbad the Sailor. You'll also hear Flight of the Bumblebee and favorite melodies from the Disney movie Aladdin.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$12 - \$19

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

## AN EVENING WITH LESTER BROWN

**April 28** (7:30 pm)

### Progressive Forum Houston

The Washington Post called Lester Brown "one of the world's most influential thinkers." The Telegraph of Calcutta refers to him as "the guru of the environmental movement." Lester Brown pioneered the field of sustainability and created the first research institute devoted to analyzing global environmental issues when he created Worldwatch Institute in 1974. In 2001, he created Earth Policy Institute whose mission is to provide a vision of what an environmentally sustainable economy will look like and how to get there. He's received many awards including 23 honorary degrees and a MacArthur "genius" Fellowship. He's published 50 books including his latest, Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization.

Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

Tickets: \$14 - \$74

(832) 251-0706 / progressiveforumhouston.org

## RENT

**April 29 – May 3** (Times vary)

### Theatre Under The Stars

RENT is the classic musical about love, friendship and community, and the seventh longest-running show in Broadway history. Now, RENT is coming to Houston in a new touring production starring original Broadway cast members Adam Pascal and Anthony Rapp!

Over the course of its groundbreaking 12-year New York run, RENT transformed the definition of musical theater -- and changed Broadway forever. Set in NYC's East Village, RENT is a modern take on the classic Puccini opera, La Boheme.

It tells the unforgettable story of a group of young artists learning to survive, falling in love, finding their voices and living for today."

Hobby Center's Sarofim Hall

Tickets: \$26 - \$60

(713) 558-8887 / tuts.com

## WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

**April 30 – May 2** (7:30 pm each day)

### Dominic Walsh Dance Theater

The much-anticipated Houston premiere of Walsh's Mozart Trilogy featuring Wolfgang for Webb performed by Sarasota Ballet of Florida, Amadeus for Anita performed by Dominic Walsh Dance Theater, and Mozart performed by both companies.

Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall

Tickets: \$23.25 - \$48.25

(713) 315-2525 / dwdt.org

## SLATKIN'S BEETHOVEN EIGHTH

**April 30 – May 3** (Times vary)

### Houston Symphony

Leonard Slatkin premiered the Sierra Missa Latina at the Kennedy Center and now brings it to Houston with the same soloists. The Washington Times said "Mr. Sierra's new work is, quite simply, shockingly brilliant." In 2008-2009, Slatkin becomes Music Director in Detroit and Principal Guest Conductor in Pittsburgh. His more than 100 recordings have earned five GRAMMY® Awards and more than sixty nominations.

Jones Hall

Tickets: \$27 - \$107

(713) 224-7575 / houstonsymphony.org

